

B1 *48* *49*. (New) The device of claim ⁴⁵~~46~~ wherein display is blocked if any present user is not allowed access to the content.

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on February 25, 2003 and the Advisory Action mailed May 12, 2003.

Claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 are amended, claims 24-29 are canceled, and claims 30-49 are added; as a result, claims 1-23 and 30-49 are now pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-11, 13-14, 16-17, 19-21, 24-25 and 27-28 were previously rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Williams (US 5,977,964). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 24-29 have been cancelled. The remaining independent claims have been amended to clarify that multiple people or users are all detected in a viewing volume. It is clear that Williams is not capable of doing so. Williams is only capable of identifying a single person at a time who is actually interacting with the system, and has no clue that there may be more people in a viewing volume. In fact, the concept of a viewing volume as claimed is totally lacking in Williams. The term, as defined in the application on pages 16 and 17 is:

“Volume 300 represents the volume being monitored by user-recognition input device 208 that determines the users present in volume 300 (i.e., herein, this is also called the “area” being monitored). User 99, for example an adult watching a television program or internet web site suitable only for adults, is in an area (or volume) 301 which can view display 224 and hear speakers 226 as controlled by system unit 201. Monitored volume 300 may or may not be coterminous with viewing volume 301 (in various embodiments, it is desirable to monitor a volume 300 that is outside the viewing volume, e.g., the doorway or hall outside the room, in order to determine when someone is coming; while in other embodiments, it is desirable to repeatedly monitor which persons are present in an audience). User 98, for example a child of tender years unexpectedly

enters the room because he cannot sleep. System 200 automatically controls the program content to match a content suitable for the entire audience present, e.g., by blocking the display and audio if the content is not suitable for children.”

Thus, it is clear that viewing volume as used in the application is significantly different from anything taught by Williams. The broadest interpretation of Williams is that the system recognizes someone using a microphone. It cannot detect all that are present in a viewing volume as recited in the independent claims.

Independent claim 7 further recites that “display is blocked if any present user is not allowed access to the content.” Williams is not capable of this function. It can only block access based on a current single user of the system, not if any present user is not allowed access. It cannot detect more than one present user at any given time.

New claims 30-49 include the term “viewing volume”, and also reference recognizing “all” users or people in that viewing volume. They distinguish for at least the same reasons as the amended claims. Further, claim 30 makes it clear that the term viewing volume means “where the information is viewable on the display device”. Further, “all people” in the viewing volume, and it selectively blocks display if anyone in the viewing volume is not allowed access.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 4, 12, 18, 22 and 29 were previously rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams (US 5,977,964) in view of Lu (US 5,771,307). The rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 4, 12, 18 and 22 depend from independent claims that are believed to distinguish Williams. Lu is not cited as providing any of the elements missing from Williams with respect to such independent claims. Thus, these dependent claims are believed allowable and it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney 612-373-6972 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0439.


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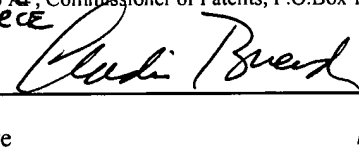
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